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Bangalore Mirror

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NOT THE WAY TO GO

Chimney crash at city's only pet crematorium that has been defunct for long comes as brutal blow to animal lovers

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AT THE FAG END

BBMP tightens enforcement of penalties against citizens, establishments that toss cigarettes and beedi butts away carelessly

PAGE 4

Parked-at-intersection violations see small uptick during Tabebuia Rosea season — Don't blame the flowers, fault lies with click-happy commuters and lack of proper parking spaces

IN THE PINK OF HEALTH... OR NOT?

1,81,798 wrong parking cases this summer

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As Bengaluru's pink blossoms, Tabebuia Rosea, take over the city to create a stunning ambience, admiring glances from commuters comes at a small price -- traffic disruptions. Traffic police numbers show a small uptick in the violations -- at least some of which can be attributed to the motorists' frenzy to capture the flowers' beauty.

Data from the city's traffic police reveal that parked-at-intersection violations stood at 3,742 while wrong parking cases reported up to a staggering 1,81,798 cases, making it one among the top 10 listed traffic violations this season.

Motorists, who usually race against time, are seen slowing down, sometimes even pulling over, not out of frustration, but to capture the perfect photo. Car passengers lean out of windows; pedestrians stop mid-step, their phones tilted toward the sky and couples take selfies

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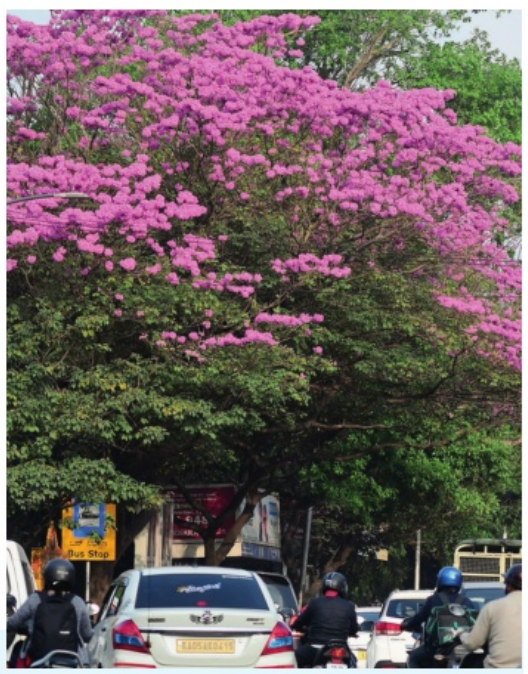

"If people want to click pictures, they can park their vehicle on the side without disturbing other commuters and enjoy the season —Shivaprakash, DCP (South Traffic)

Inching closer to top of waste pile

State now generating 76 tonnes of biomedical waste daily; use of deep burial pits to dispose it of concerning

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Karnataka has jumped to the second position in biomedical waste production in the country, a report by the Central Pollution Control Board (CPCB) has highlighted. The state is now generating 76 tonnes per day of biomedical waste, only next to Uttar Pradesh (91 tonnes per day).

However, there is no gap in the generation and treatment of biomedical waste in Karnataka anymore. The report suggests that all the waste being generated under this category is being treated through Common Biomedical Waste Treatment Facilities (CBWTFs), incinerators, and deep burial pits.

It also raises concerns about deep burial pits being used to dispose of biomedical waste. In Karnataka, as many as 1,581 healthcare facilities are utilising deep burial pits to treat this category of waste.

In deep burial, biomedical waste is placed in a pit or trench and then covered with soil and lime. As per the Bio-medical Waste Management Rule (BMW) 2016, certain types of biomedical waste, such as human and animal anatomical waste and soiled waste, can be disposed of through

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THINGS TO DO

01 Shopping haven

The Meena Bazaar Arts & Crafts Mela presents a vibrant mix of women's clothing, fashion accessories, perfumes, footwear, imitation jewellery, home appliances, and children's toys. **Where: Karnataka Chitrakala Parishath, Seshadripuram; When: Until May 11**

02 Soulful journey

New Acropolis is organising 'The Way of Heart: Living Rumi's wisdom in our times', a journey into the teachings of Rumi. **Where: New Acropolis, Jayanagar; When: April 29, 7.30 pm**

03 Immersive art

The eighth edition of the Whitefield Art Collective (WAC) is taking place with the theme 'Future is Now'. This year's edition promises to be an immersive celebration of art, featuring over 100 installations. **Where: VR Bengaluru, Whitefield Main Road; When: March 27 to April 28**

04 Musical bliss

A concert is being organised, featuring legendary singer Hariharan and globally renowned flute virtuoso Pandit Hariprasad Chaurasia. **Where: Courtyard, hoenix Marketcity; When: May 4, 7 pm**

05 Art for aid

Bruno's Pet Friendly cafe will be displaying several pieces of art for the UCS fundraiser. Every rupee goes towards the food, care, and medical assistance for community dogs. A painting by filmmaker Jaishankar Pandit will go towards the treatment and rehab of Evie, a breeder discard. **Where: Bruno's cafe, Halasuru; When: April 14 to May 1, 9 am to 9 pm**

Aspiring teachers await TET notification amidst delay

With timely notification and examination being crucial for maintaining recruitment pipeline, candidates worry as delay affects their preparation plans and job prospects

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It has been over a year since the last Karnataka Teacher Eligibility Test (TET) application process, but no new notification has been released yet. As a result, thousands of aspiring teachers who must clear TET to apply for teaching posts are anxiously waiting for the next announcement.

Every year, the Department of School Education, through the Centralised Admission Cell (CAC), invites applications for the TET and usually conducts the examination within a month. This year, however, the delay has raised serious concerns amongst candidates who have been preparing specifically for the exam.

Previous year's schedule

Sunitha Kumar, a teacher, said that in 2024, the TET notification was released on April 15, and the application process began immediately. Candidates were given a month to submit their applications, and the exam was successfully conducted on May 30. "Following this established schedule, candidates expected a similar timeline this year. However, with no notification yet, many are left in uncertainty, affecting their preparation plans and job prospects," she said.

Demand to conduct TET twice a year

According to established norms, the TET should be conducted twice a year to accommodate the growing number of teaching vacancies. However, currently, the exam is being held only once annually. This creates a shortage of eligible candidates when recruitment drives are announced. Many aspirants are urging the government to hold TET twice a year to ensure a sufficient pool of qualified candidates for teacher appointments.

Government's recruitment plans

Sources said that the Karnataka government is reportedly planning to fill 5,000 teacher posts this year, with a larger recruitment drive for 25,000 posts expected next year. Overall, there are 59,772 teaching vacancies across the state. In the Kalyana Karnataka region alone, 5,300 posts have already received financial approval. However, without timely TET examinations, filling these vacancies remains a challenge.

Aspirants voice their concerns

Candidates preparing for the TET are growing restless over the delay. Vimala, a TET aspirant, said that she has been preparing for the exam for the past year. "The Centralized Admission Cell should have already invited applications. With no notification yet, it has become difficult to plan ahead. We request the authorities to release the notification immediately, and allow us to apply," she said.

Importance of the TET certification

The TET is a mandatory qualifying exam as per the National Council for Teacher Education (NCTE) guidelines. Clearing Paper 1 is necessary to teach classes 1 to 5, while Paper 2 is required for teaching classes 6 to 8. Only candidates who pass the respective papers are eligible to apply for teacher recruitment. Thus, timely notification and examination are crucial for maintaining the recruitment pipeline and strengthening the education system.

The TET is a mandatory qualifying exam as per the National Council for Teacher Education (NCTE) guidelines; clearing Paper 1 is necessary to teach classes 1 to 5, while Paper 2 is required for teaching classes 6 to 8

K'taka wins T20 Cricket Championship for Deaf

The Karnataka Deaf Cricket Team emerged victorious at the VIII National T20 Cricket Championship for the Deaf, held from April 19 to April 25, 2025, in Gurugram, Haryana. The tournament, organised by the All-India Sports Council of the Deaf and Haryana Sports Council of the Deaf, saw 17 teams from across the country compete. Karnataka topped Group B with dominant wins over Odisha, Madhya Pradesh, and Delhi. In the semi-finals, they defeated Tamil Nadu with ease, setting up a thrilling final against Punjab. Karnataka clinched the championship in a nail-biting match, defeating Punjab by just four runs to secure the title.

In the final, Karnataka posted 177/7 in 20 overs, with key contributions from Subramani Singh (45) and Souban Armar (39). Punjab's response fell short, finishing at 173/7. **— BMB**

IMD forecasts relief from scorching weather

Bengaluru, which is facing sweltering heat, may soon cool down, with India Meteorological Department (IMD) forecasting rainfall this week. According to the latest updates, rain or thundershowers with gusty winds of 40-50 km/h may affect the city on Monday, with drier conditions elsewhere in south interior Karnataka. By April 29, light to moderate rain with gusty winds is expected in Bengaluru, though dry weather is predicted in other areas of south interior Karnataka. On April 30, Bengaluru may experience light rain or thundershowers, continuing the trend of scattered showers across the region.

Dr N Puviarasan, a scientist at IMD, said that May 1 will bring light to moderate rain with gusty winds to the city, with drier weather expected in some parts of the region. He noted that on May 2, Bengaluru will again witness light to moderate rain or thundershowers with gusty winds, and similar conditions can be expected on May 3, with light rain or thundershowers likely at one or two places in the city. Additionally he said that throughout the forecast period, Bengaluru can expect intermittent rain, accompanied by gusty winds, although dry conditions will prevail in some districts across Karnataka. "The overall weather pattern will be influenced by a persistent trough over the region, leading to sporadic rainfall and thundershowers, particularly in Bengaluru and other parts of south interior Karnataka," he said. **— BMB**

Governor condoles demise of former ISRO chief

Karnataka Governor Thaawarchand Gehlot on Sunday expressed grief over the demise of former Indian Space Research Organisation (ISRO) Chief K Kasturirangan who he said was a great scholar and played a major role in shaping space research and space projects. "He was a great scientist, a great scholar. As Chairman of ISRO, he played a major role in shaping space research and space projects. He also served as Vice Chancellor in two institutions. I had the opportunity to meet him in many programmes and seek his blessings. I pay my humble tributes to him and pray to God to give strength to the bereaved family to bear this loss," Gehlot said. Former ISRO Chairman K Sivan also condoled the death and said that Kasturirangan contributed to national programs apart from space programs. **— ANI**

Leaders pay last respects to Kasturi Rangan at the Raman Research Institute on Sunday

City's only pet crematorium out of service for weeks

BBMP ignored Sumanahalli crematorium's rusted chimney. Now it has crashed and facility has been shut for weeks; officials not bothered about repairs too

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The rusted chimney came crashing down due to heavy rain and strong winds on April 14

The pet crematorium at Sumanahalli, billed as the third pet crematorium in the country, has been craving for the attention of the authorities concerned. The pet crematorium was constructed at an estimated cost of Rs 2.35 crore, and its construction was completed in 15 months. It is the only crematorium for the entire Bengaluru to cremate streeties and pets.

Cremation has been halted at this facility for over two weeks, with no immediate plans to reopen the crematorium. Sources say the BBMP Executive Engineer (Electrical) identified the rusted chimney during an inspection on December 30, 2024. On January 3 this year, a letter was sent to the BBMP Executive Engineer (Projects), urging a visit to the pet crematorium to assess the chimney's condition and take necessary steps for its replacement.

However, the BBMP Executive Engineer (Projects) did not address the issue. The rusted chimney came crashing down due to heavy rain and strong winds on April 14. The pet crematorium became defunct on April 15, and authorities have yet to begin repairs, even two weeks after the letter was written to the BBMP official in charge of projects.

It may be recalled that Revenue Minister Krishne Gowda, on behalf of Deputy Chief Minister DK Shiva Kumar, stated in the Assembly in December 2024 that the government planned to construct three electric crematoria for stray and pet dogs at Shettihalli in Dasarahalli Zone and Yelahanka and Medihalli in Bengaluru East. While replying to a query from Shivajinagar MLA Rizwan Arshad, the Revenue Minister said the government has identified locations for constructing electric crematoria for stray and pet dogs.

Bangalore Mirror published a story, "Government plans 3 new animal crematoriums in Bengaluru" on December 19, 2024, narrating how the proposed crematoria will help pet parents from Yelahanka, Mahadevapura and faraway places in Bengaluru who want a dignified and hassle-free farewell for their pets.

Now, animal lovers and pet parents are up in arms against the BBMP for not taking measures to reopen the pet crematorium at Sumanahalli. They said that the non-functioning animal crematorium continues to be a source of great pain to grieving parents, as well as shelters that take the dogs there for cremation.

> **"Pet parents, who are already grieving should not have to experience more problems like the non-availability of facilities for the cremation of pets. Private burial grounds are unaffordable too**

Ajita Vijayan, a pet parent, wanted a dignified cremation for her dog, which died on February 18, but was told the crematorium was not functioning.

"I do not want pet parents, who are already under trauma, to experience more problems like the non-availability of facilities for the cremation of pets. Finally, I have to go to a private burial ground for pets. Burial at the private burial ground for pets is expensive, and not all pet parents can afford to pay such an amount of money," said Ajita Vijayan.

Priya Chetty-Rajagopal, Founder of CJ Memorial Trust, said, "So many grieving, heartbroken pet parents have brought dogs or cats to Sumanhali crematorium only to be turned back, saying the facilities are not working.

First, we were told one week, then we were told three weeks, and right now, no one is taking responsibility."

Aishwarya fraud case: Murky links emerge

The Enforcement Directorate (ED) has intensified its investigation into Aishwarya Gowda in a fraud case, with explosive details emerging during the interrogation. The investigation has uncovered connections between Aishwarya Gowda and former minister Vinay Kulkarni, as well as links to the murder case of Yogesh Gowda.

Aishwarya Gowda was involved in a financial transaction worth Rs 24 crore with Vinay Kulkarni, where she reportedly took the money as a loan. The transaction included an interest rate of Rs 24 lakh per day for Rs 24 crore. After receiving the money, Aishwarya is said to have failed to pay the agreed interest and instead asked for more time.

It was found that the deal had been structured through an agreement in which Kulkarni had provided the loan under the name of a friend. Furthermore, Kulkarni had tasked Aishwarya to set up a "trap" for a witness, Basavaraj Muttagi, involved in the case related to Yogesh Gowda's murder.

Aishwarya, along with accomplice Lakshman, allegedly used financial inducements and audio recordings to manipulate witnesses. They even approached the High Court with these recordings, attempting to discredit the testimony of the witness. However, the application was rejected by the CBI court, and the matter was later investigated by the ED, which has now made these findings public.

The ED's investigation into Aishwarya Gowda also revealed that she was involved in large-scale financial dealings, with transactions totalling approximately ₹60 crore with Congress leader Tibbegowda. These dealings were conducted without paying any taxes, leading the ED to seize mobile phones and bank passbooks during raids at Tibbegowda's residence.

Aishwarya's financial operations were extensive, and over just three years, she was involved in transactions amounting to ₹75 crore through her bank account, without paying any taxes. As the investigation unfolded, it became evident that she was engaged in large-scale fraud by evading taxes. The Income Tax Department had attempted to process her tax filings but rejected them due to discrepancies.

The ED continues to probe these complex financial transactions and the role of several political figures in the case. The investigation is ongoing, with more developments expected as authorities scrutinise the money trails and hidden transactions.

Three arrested in college professor assault case

Three individuals were arrested by KS Layout police in connection with an assault on a college professor on April 21, 2021. The arrested suspects are Bhanuprasad (26), Sharath (23), and Amruth Kumar (24).

The incident occurred when the accused were seen throwing trash, including empty glasses, onto the road from an auto-rickshaw. When the professor, Aravind Gupta, questioned their actions, the situation quickly escalated. As Gupta was riding his bike, the accused assaulted him. Gupta managed to record a video of the altercation, which he later shared on social media. Following his complaint, the KS Layout police launched an investigation, which eventually led to the arrest of the three individuals.

Autorickshaw driver in road rage probe

A road rage incident was reported on Friday night near the Lingarajapuram underpass, where an autorickshaw driver blocked the road and engaged in inappropriate behaviour with a car driver. The incident, which occurred around 8:45 pm, led to a traffic jam, inconveniencing other motorists as well.

The car driver, a private firm employee, recorded the altercation on his phone and shared the video on social media, tagging the city police to bring attention to the driver's rude actions. The video, which shows the autorickshaw driver posing for the camera as the car driver begins recording, has been submitted as evidence.

The police have launched an investigation into the matter.

No more littering: Toss cigarette butt, pay ₹500

BBMP to enforce scientific disposal of cigarette and beedi butts, urges proper handling to curb pollution; experts warn these toxic butts decompose slowly

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It's not just smoking in public places that will attract penalties anymore — even discarding cigarettes and beedi butts carelessly may also invite fines. Citizens are urged to be cautious as authorities tighten enforcement.

Cigarette and beedi butts, laden with toxic chemicals, are hazardous to health. The National Green Tribunal (NGT) had, as early as 2015, directed pollution control boards and municipal bodies to ensure the scientific disposal of these waste materials. A decade later, Bengaluru's civic agency, BBMP (Bruhat Bengaluru Mahanagara Palike), is moving to implement these guidelines.

In line with instructions from the Central and State Pollution Control Boards, aimed at mitigating health hazards caused by cigarette and beedi waste, the BBMP has launched a crackdown. Bengaluru Solid Waste Management Limited (BSWML) has already issued a directive in this regard, trained marshals for enforcement, and empowered them to impose a fine of Rs.500 under the 2020 Solid Waste Management by-laws.

What's inside cigarette and beedi butts?

Medical experts warn that cigarette and beedi butts contain around 6,000–7,000 toxic chemicals, including high levels of cadmium, arsenic, and lead. Around 70% of these elements are carcinogenic, posing severe health risks to the public.

Official order

As per the BBMP's directive, shops, commercial complexes, bars, restaurants, and other establishments must ensure proper disposal of cigarette and beedi butts. Improper disposal on roads and in public places is contributing significantly to environmental pollution and city cleanliness issues. Hence, scientific disposal following Karnataka State Pollution Control Board (KSPCB) guidelines is now mandatory, and violations will attract fines.

Background: NGT's directive

The non-profit 'For You' had petitioned the NGT in 2015 seeking action on public smoking and the improper disposal of cigarette butts. Responding to this, the NGT directed the Centre and States to act against chemical hazards posed by these waste materials. Subsequently, in 2017, the Ministry of Health instructed all states to take necessary measures. In 2020, the NGT further directed the formulation of proper guidelines for disposal, following which Karnataka formed a committee headed by Dr US Vishal Rao, a tobacco control board member and cancer specialist. Based on the committee's recommendations, the KSPCB issued disposal guidelines in 2023.

Growing problem

Currently, BBMP lacks an established system for scientific disposal of cigarette and beedi butts. Most of this waste ends up in the general garbage. Customers often stub cigarettes outside small shops, and shopkeepers sweep the waste into regular trash. A survey conducted a decade ago by the Institute of Public Health found that approximately 3.1 million cigarette and beedi butts were improperly discarded daily in Bengaluru, severely impacting health and the environment. Today, this number is estimated to have crossed 5 million per day.

As per the BBMP's directive, shops, commercial complexes, bars, restaurants, and other establishments must ensure proper disposal of cigarette and beedi butts

Why scientific disposal matters

Experts point out that cigarette butts decompose very slowly. Studies reveal that even after two years, only about 38% of a cigarette butt decomposes, making scientific disposal critical.

Medical experts warn that cigarette and beedi butts contain around 6,000–7,000 toxic chemicals, including high levels of cadmium, arsenic, and lead

"Mandating proper disposal of cigarette and beedi butts is a welcome step, considering their long-lasting environmental impact," said a senior officer at BBMP Solid Waste Management.

Art finds a home beyond gallery walls

With the aim of spreading awareness and making art more accessible to the general public, artists displayed various kinds of art forms in the park

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A group of five artists have joined hands to promote art amongst the people who visit Lakshmi Kantha Park at Padmanabhanagar in South Bengaluru. The group has been organising the art show at the park during weekends, and are happy with the response from those who visit the park in the morning and evening for a walk.

Raksha, a visual artist and graduate of Chitrakala Parishath, said that she recently began exhibiting her works at local parks to observe public engagement and reactions. "It was a success. Later, I decided to call more artists to join me to exhibit their works. The goal of this is to make art accessible to more people," she said. Raksha shared that earlier she exhibited her artworks in galleries, but primarily those familiar with art and already interested in it visited. "I wanted the general public to be aware or know more about art and make art accessible to them," she said.

Akhila H, an artist from Padmanabhanagar, expressed that she was delighted with the experience of the art show. "Many of the visitors have evinced interest to know about Mandala art. It is my fourth art show. I put up a stall during

Park walkers taking a look at the paintings displayed for the art show at Lakshmi Kantha Park

Chitra Santhe. I have also exhibited my art works at Indian Institute of World Culture (IIWC), and Indira Gandhi National Centre for Arts," said Akhila.

Sinchan Paul, who specialises in intricate versions of Kalamkari art, said that the art show provided a platform for exposure to different kinds of artwork. "A few senior citizens came along with their grandchildren who were enthusiastic to know about Kalamkari art," said Paul. Appreciating the artists for organising the art show, Captain Ramesh Nanjundaiah, a resident of the area, said that he wants the artists to organise more art shows for the benefit of people who visit the park. "I am very happy to see different types of art works. It is a visual treat," he said.

Expressing a similar opinion, Sreelatha Ramesh, another resident, highlighted that the art show allowed visitors to know about various unique art styles.

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Stalled construction

Singapura

Road work in front of Commanders Glory Apartment, Kuvempu Nagar (BBMP Ward 11), Singapura, has been stalled for over two months with no visible progress or ongoing activity.

Neglected infrastructure

Kanakadasa Road

Despite spending taxpayers' money on high mast lighting for key city circles, the initiative has faltered. A glaring example is the massive high mast pole abandoned on the footpath of Y Ramachandra Road at Kanakadasa Circle, lying unused for years in the city's heart.

Hazardous pavement

Richards Town

The pavement along the boundary wall of Prestige Mayfair on Davis Road, Richards Town, remains hazardous. An 80-year-old woman narrowly escaped losing her eye after a fall here. Adding to the neglect, a lamp post stands without a light.

HC breather to Hindustan Unilever

The Karnataka High Court issued a stay against BBMP's property tax demand of Rs 6.7 crore from Hindustan Unilever Limited regarding its R&D Centre in Whitefield, Bengaluru.

Justice S Sunil Dutt Yadav provided interim relief, noting BBMP's inability to substantiate the differential tax demand or explain the rejection of HUL's self-assessment submissions.

The Court ordered, "In light of the same, there would be a stay of the demand at Annexure-B, till the next date of hearing," referencing the demand notice dated March 15, 2025.

The tax dispute between HUL and BBMP extends beyond ten years, involving multiple property surveys and reassessments. The issue originated in 2013 when BBMP claimed tax underassessment based on a 2012 survey, demanding 4.02 crore for 2008-09 to 2012-13. After discussions, the amount was reduced to 1.30 crore, which HUL paid in January 2014, though BBMP reportedly never issued an official receipt.

BBMP conducted several surveys between 2017 and 2024, including a total station survey, each yielding different built-up area measurements and varying tax demands. In January 2019, BBMP issued a 2.75 crore arrears notice, which HUL contested through administrative channels.

HUL contends that the Joint Commissioner issued an ex-parte order in July 2024 without notice, despite promises to allow inspection of survey findings. The subsequent notices of 2.81 crore and 6.7 crore in March 2025 led HUL to seek judicial intervention.

HUL asserts that BBMP's actions were arbitrary and violated natural justice principles. They also claim exclusion from a one-time settlement scheme due to the suppression of the appeal order.

Senior Advocate Promod Nair, appearing for HUL, challenged the tax demand's legal validity.

25 stolen two-wheelers recovered, three arrested

Mahadevapura Police have arrested three individuals involved in a widespread two-wheeler theft racket, recovering a total of 25 stolen vehicles valued at 35 lakh. The investigation began with a complaint filed by a resident of Udayanagar Village in March, reporting the theft of a two-wheeler that was parked outside their house overnight. The stolen vehicle was taken in the early hours of March 7.

Following this initial report, the police launched an investigation, leading to the arrest of two suspects at O' Forum Road, Whitefield, where they were found in possession of the stolen vehicle. During interrogation, the two accused admitted to stealing multiple two-wheelers across various parts of the city. The accused further revealed that they had sold 12 of the stolen vehicles to an individual in Kharjagi village, Haveri.

Further investigation led to the police obtaining crucial information from the two arrested suspects, which helped them trace the buyer of the stolen vehicles to Haveri. Acting on the tip-off, police apprehended the buyer and recovered 12 stolen two-wheelers from his possession. During interrogation, the accused confessed to having knowingly purchased the stolen vehicles. He was subsequently remanded to police custody for six days.

As the investigation continued, the two accused revealed the location of 12 more stolen two-wheelers. These vehicles were seized, bringing the total number of recovered vehicles to 25.

CCTV lapses fuel doubts in Ricky Rai shootout

Anuradha Rai questioned by police in connection with attack; Ricky Rai's statement expected to be crucial in uncovering motive

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The car in which Ricky Rai, son of former underworld operative Muthappa Rai, was travelling in, damaged after an armed gang opened fire at him, at Bidadi near Bengaluru, last Saturday

Police await Forensic Science Laboratory reports to determine if shooting was genuine or staged. Investigators plan to question Vaidyanathan, one of the accused

In the latest development in the alleged shootout involving Ricky Rai, son of late underworld figure Muthappa Rai, the Ramanagara police questioned Anuradha Muthappa Rai, second wife of the gangster, for nearly five hours on Sunday. The interrogation took place at the Bidadi police station, where Anuradha (52) appeared around 11 am and cooperated with investigators probing the incident.

The questioning comes even as police await crucial Forensic Science Laboratory (FSL) reports to establish the technical aspects of the shooting. These findings are expected to shed light on whether the attack was genuine or orchestrated. Investigators say they have yet to question Vaidyanathan, one of the accused named in the FIR, and will be able to confirm the motive only after obtaining statements from Ricky Rai himself, who is still recovering in the hospital.

"I believe the police will deliver justice. Let them find out who is behind the attack and punish them. That's all I ask," Anuradha told reporters after her questioning, adding that she last saw Ricky in October at court and would cooperate again if called.

Ballistic analysis reveals inconsistency

Ricky Rai (33) sustained injuries to his nose and arm when two rounds were fired at his car near his residence in Bidadi at 10:55 pm on April 19. The black Toyota Fortuner was shot at from a distance of less than 50 metres while he was en route along the Vidadi-Modavadi Road near Kariappanadoddy off Mysuru Road.

Initially, an FIR was registered based on a complaint by Rai's driver, Basavaraju, who named Anuradha, former associate Rakesh Malli, and realtors Nitesh Shetty and Vaidyanathan as suspects. But as a separate police team dug deeper, the narrative began to shift.

Ballistic analysis revealed inconsistencies; the first shot had hit the ground, not the vehicle, while the second appeared to have merely grazed Ricky's nose. Investigators noted irregular blackouts in CCTV footage around the time of the incident, with gaps coinciding with the movements of 53-year-old Manappa Vithal, Ricky's long-time bodyguard and former gunman to Muthappa Rai.

CCTV footage contradicts claims

Vithal, who had initially claimed to be home during the incident, was later seen on camera exiting the property on a bike. His son's version of events also contradicted his alibi. Suspicion mounted further when Ricky returned home moments after the incident, citing a forgotten purse, yet another moment when CCTV footage briefly cut out.

After being hospitalised earlier in the week, Vithal was arrested on Thursday following a lengthy interrogation. Police now suspect he fired the shots at Rai's car as part of a staged attempt to falsely implicate rivals.

While the evidence increasingly suggests an insider conspiracy, the full extent of the motive remains unclear. Sources say the case hinges on two critical pieces: the soon-to-arrive FSL reports and Ricky Rai's statement, once he is medically fit to be questioned. The investigation is ongoing, and the authorities have not ruled out further arrests.

BMTC improves mother's lounge conditions

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TWEETS @BangaloreMIRROR

Women commuters express gratitude to the Bengaluru Metropolitan Transport Corporation (BMTC) authorities for restoring the electricity supply to the Mother's Lounge at BMTC Bus Station, Shivajinagar. They appreciate the authorities for ensuring the lounge remains clean and neat.

Bangalore Mirror published a story titled 'Seems Like Nobody Bothered About Lounge for Mothers' on April 24, highlighting the poor condition of the Mother's Lounge at Shivajinagar Bus Station and how women commuters are struggling to use the facility, which was inaugurated with much fanfare but lacks electricity.

BANGALORE IMPACT MIRROR
BangaloreMirror
No electricity supply, unclean sinks, feeding room without seating — shape of Mother's Lounge in Shivajinagar Bus Station indicates facility is completely forgotten
SEEMS LIKE NOBODY BOTHERS ABOUT LOUNGE FOR MOTHERS
Too young to tie the knot

Restored, clean, and electrified Mother's lounge

BM's April 24 story highlights Shivajinagar Mother's Lounge's poor condition

"We have taken measures to restore the electricity supply and ensure the lounge is clean and neat," said the BMTC Public Relations Officer.

Meanwhile, women commuters want the BMTC authorities to monitor the cleaning of the lounge daily. "I am happy with the restoration of the power supply at the lounge. Now, the lounge is clean and neat," said Lakshmi S, a BMTC commuter.

Demanding that the BMTC authorities ensure the lounge is kept clean in future, Saroja N, a commuter, said the lounge is a great help for women commuters and mothers who want to feed their children.

War should be last resort: CM bats for national unity

CM Siddaramaiah calls for national unity following Pahalgam attack, advocating peaceful solutions, diplomatic efforts, and addressing security flaws to prevent further incidents

Karnataka Chief Minister Siddaramaiah on Sunday clarified his stance on war, emphasising that it should always be a "last resort" for any nation. Referring to the recent Pakistan-backed terror attack in Pahalgam, the CM highlighted "grave lapses" in India's intelligence and security apparatus. He urged the central government to address these issues to prevent future tragedies.

In his X post, he wrote, "I have observed the debates and discussions, both for and against, surrounding the statement I made about war. War should always be a nation's last resort -- never the first, nor the only option. Only when every other means to defeat the enemy have failed should a country be compelled to go to war. The horrific terror attack in Pahalgam, orchestrated by Pakistan-backed militants, has made it painfully clear -- both to the people of our nation and to the central government -- that there were grave lapses in our intelligence and security apparatus. It is now the government's solemn responsibility first to correct these shortcomings and to ensure such tragedies are not repeated in the future...."

He further expressed support for the central government's diplomatic measures, including revisiting the Indus Waters Treaty, in response to Pakistan-backed terrorism and hinted at expecting more decisive actions. He further emphasised that not all steps need to be made public, and affirmed national unity behind decisive measures.

"The central government has already initiated certain diplomatic steps, including revisiting the Indus Waters Treaty -- a move we wholeheartedly welcome. We trust that even sterner actions are on the horizon. Not every move needs to be broadcast to the world; rest assured, the nation stands fully united behind every strong and decisive step taken. At the same time, some mischievous elements are attempting to create hatred and division within the country, disturbing the peace and unity among us. The government must act firmly against such forces, too. Today, India stands at a highly sensitive crossroads. If we are to face external enemies, we must first forge unwavering internal unity," he said on X.

CM Siddaramaiah addresses 'Yuva Kranti Buniyadi' leadership camp on Sunday in Mysore, emphasising youth empowerment and development

> **"Today, India stands at a highly sensitive crossroads. If we are to face external enemies, we must first forge unwavering internal unity** – Chief Minister Siddaramaiah

Siddaramaiah also highlighted the global condemnation of Pakistan-sponsored terrorism, calling for India to leverage this support to deliver a strong response to Pakistan, ensuring such acts are not repeated.

"Pakistan today is a crumbling, bankrupt state, sick and weakened. They have little left to lose. In contrast, India is rising -- a growing superpower in the world order -- and hence, we must tread with wisdom and caution. At this crucial moment, nations across the world have come out in strong condemnation of Pakistan-sponsored terrorism, standing firmly with India. We must seize this unprecedented global support and teach Pakistan a lesson so profound that they dare not commit such reckless acts ever again, " he added in a post.

Meanwhile, Chief of General Staff (CDS) General Anil Chauhan arrived at the residence of Union Defence Minister Rajnath Singh on Sunday to brief him on the key decisions taken up by the military to counter Pakistan following the horrific terrorist attack in Pahalgam.

The meeting was convened in response to the deadly attack that occurred on April 22, during which 26 individuals, mostly tourists, including one Nepalese national, were brutally gunned down.

The incident happened around 2 pm at Baisaran meadow, near the popular tourist town of Pahalgam in Jammu and Kashmir.

Following the incident, the National Investigation Agency (NIA) teams, stationed at the Pahalgam terror attack site since April 23, have intensified the search for evidence. The teams, led by an IG, DIG, and SP from the anti-terror agency, are questioning eyewitnesses who observed the April 22 attack.

Party backs Centre's decision, says Kharge

Congress president Mallikarjun Kharge on Sunday said his party has extended full support to the central government in its actions against the perpetrators of the Pahalgam terror attack and that they will have to properly utilise it, take everyone into confidence, and move ahead. The country is important and everyone will have to fight together to protect it and work for its welfare, he said, as he also expressed reservations about Prime Minister Narendra Modi skipping Thursday's all-party meeting that was convened to discuss the terror attack.

The terror attack in Pahalgam of Jammu and Kashmir on April 22 has left at least 26 people dead, including two from Karnataka.

"I have already said that he (PM) should have come (to the all-party meeting). His absence is not right... the country is important, religion, and language come later. So all of us should fight together for the country. I have said several times that we extend support to the government," Kharge said in response to a question.

Speaking to reporters here, he said, "We will extend support. Properly utilise it. If they (Centre) take everyone into confidence, further steps will be easy. But going on criticising each other will not go well."

"Some people have already started it, but it is not right. We have spoken about what was discussed in the meeting. Some people are speaking, giving different meanings to it, which is not right...everything discussed at the meeting cannot be revealed in the interest of the country. I may be there or may go, similar is the case with Narendra Modi and Amit Shah, but the country will remain. So all of us should strive together for its welfare," he added

NOTES FROM THE FIELD

Verbal showdown

The Pahalgam incident and its diplomatic aftermath have sparked a verbal showdown in Karnataka. After CM Siddaramaiah's comment against war, BJP MLA G Janardhana Reddy hit back, claiming Pakistan's media picked up his statement and even tweeted it. In response, Siddaramaiah clarified on Sunday, saying, "Let's clear the air — war is not the first or only option. Only when every other option to defeat the enemy fails should it be considered. The central government has taken diplomatic steps, like cancelling the Indus Water Treaty, and we support this. We expect tougher actions ahead, though no need to spill all the details. Meanwhile, some mischief-makers are trying to stir war hysteria and divide us. The central government must act against them. In these critical times, unity within the nation is key to facing external threats."

Netas at child marriage

In a shocking twist straight out of a political soap opera, photos of a child marriage attended by a sitting MLA and a former minister went viral on Saturday, setting social media abuzz. The now-infamous pictures feature Ganesh, the MLA from Kampli (Ballari district), and former minister Mallikarjun Nagappa, smiling away at the controversial event held in a village in Kanakagiri taluk. Even more jaw-dropping? A Gram Panchayat member allegedly took the lead in organising the underage wedding, while local VIPs turned up in full support. Adding to the drama, whispers suggest that several elected representatives tried to arm-twist the police into not registering a case. However, two days after the wedding, Kanakagiri police finally booked a case on Friday against three individuals involved.

Breaking the Chamarajanagar curse

For decades, a spooky superstition haunted Karnataka's Chief Ministers: step foot in Chamarajanagar, and you could kiss your chair goodbye. But CM Siddaramaiah clearly isn't buying into ghost stories. Not only did he visit Chamarajanagar once — he's strutted into the district more than 20 times during his tenure, and he's still very much in charge! When journalists cheekily asked him about it, Siddaramaiah laughed off the jinx, saying, "The very first time I visited Chamarajanagar as Chief Minister, I wiped away that stain of fear. Nothing happened then, and it won't happen now!"

Beds, brawls & bruises

A bizarre brawl broke out at Bengaluru's Parappana Agrahara Central Prison — and the battleground? A bed! Last week, in Barrack D, Cell No 7, four convicted inmates clashed with fellow prisoner Shankar over a mattress. The scuffle left Shankar with injuries to his left arm and nose — he was rushed to Victoria Hospital after initial treatment at the prison infirmary.
Turns out, Shankar had asked the others — Harish alias Nirani, Kumaraswamy alias Chethu, Bahubali Subash, and Shivaraj — to get off his bed. Words turned into fists in no time. Following a complaint by the Assistant Jail Superintendent, a case has been booked under assault charges.

Cultural flair

Revenue Minister Krishna Byre Gowda showcased not just his leadership but also his cultural flair recently. After participating in the prayer ceremonies, the suave minister surprised everyone when he picked up the tambourine, a gesture that connected him with the festive spirit of the event. Urged by enthusiastic locals and youth, he expertly led the rhythm, seamlessly blending into the celebration. His performance added a personal touch to the event, reflecting his appreciation for tradition and culture, and giving the crowd a memorable experience.

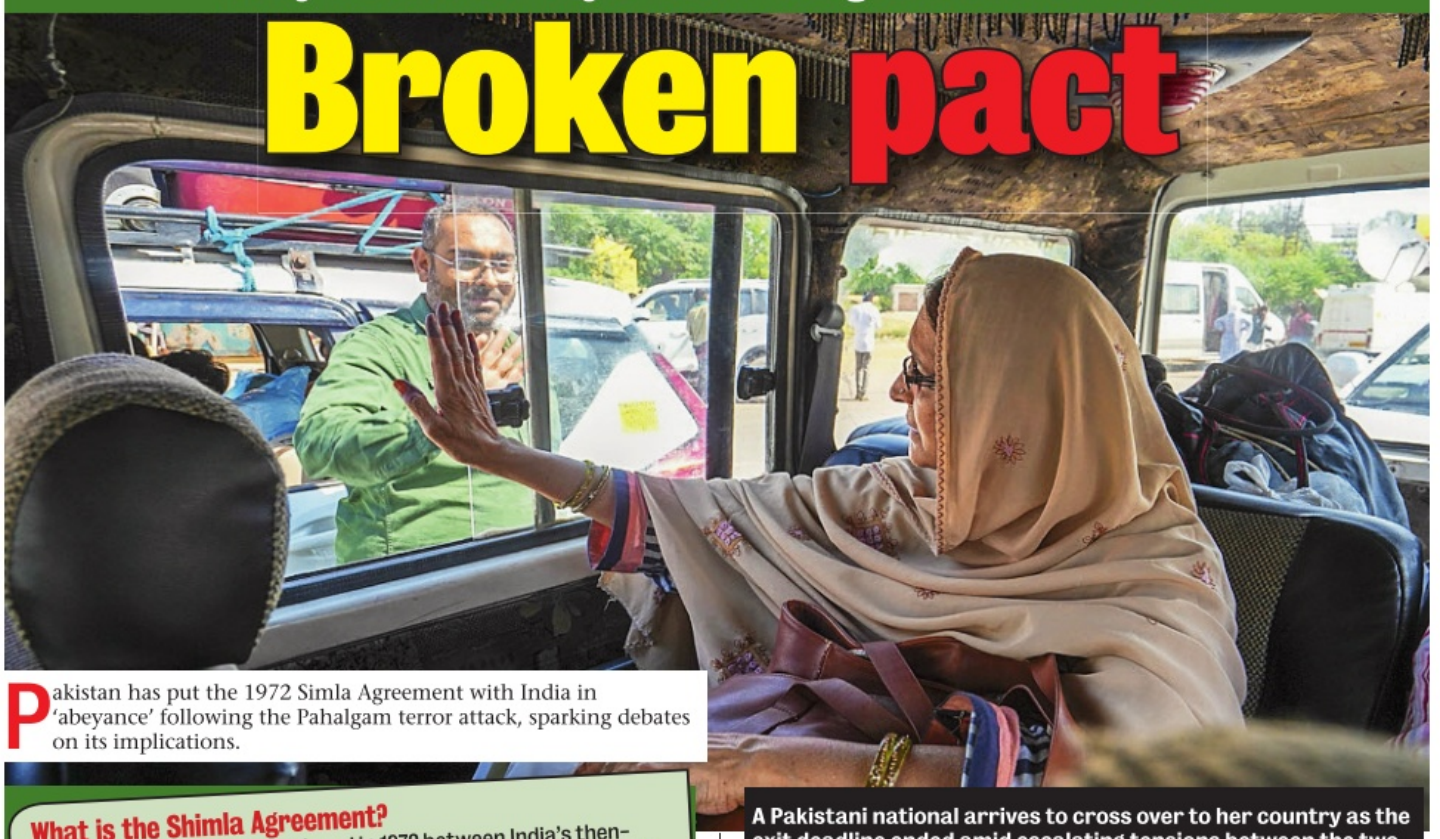
— Sridhar Vivan

BM SIMPLY PUT

Today we look at why the Shimla Agreement is in focus

Broken pact

Pakistan has put the 1972 Simla Agreement with India in 'abeyance' following the Pahalgam terror attack, sparking debates on its implications.



A Pakistani national arrives to cross over to her country as the exit deadline ended amid escalating tensions between the two countries over the Pahalgam terror attack, at the Attari-Wagah border, near Amritsar, on Sunday

What is the Shimla Agreement?

The Shimla Agreement was signed in 1972 between India's then-Prime Minister Indira Gandhi and Pakistan's President Zulfikar Ali Bhutto following the 1971 India-Pakistan war. It aimed to normalise relations, maintain peace, and respect each other's territorial integrity. The agreement required that all disputes, including Kashmir, be settled bilaterally and peacefully without third-party mediation. It mandated withdrawal of troops to pre-war positions and emphasized non-alteration of the Line of Control (LoC).

When and Why Was the Shimla Agreement Signed?

After Pakistan's defeat in the 1971 war, during which India captured 93,000 Pakistani soldiers and about 5,000 sq km of Pakistani territory, Pakistan initiated peace talks. A new country, Bangladesh, had been created, further altering South Asia's political landscape. Signed in Shimla, Himachal Pradesh, the agreement was intended to restore diplomatic ties and avoid future conflicts through direct dialogue.

Who Violated the Agreement?

Pakistan has repeatedly violated the Shimla Agreement through frequent ceasefire violations across the Line of Control and persistent attempts to alter the LoC through military means. Despite clear commitments made under the agreement, Pakistan has continued to interfere in Kashmir-related matters. Notable breaches include the 1980 intrusion into the Siachen Glacier and the 1999 Kargil conflict, during which Pakistani forces attempted to seize Indian positions.

Where Does the Suspension of the Agreement Impact?

The suspension of the Shimla Agreement gives India greater flexibility in managing key strategic areas. In Pakistan-Occupied Kashmir (PoK), India can now implement stricter policies and push forward development projects without the limitations imposed by earlier agreements. It also strengthens India's internal decision-making, allowing it to assert its sovereignty over Kashmir more firmly without being bound by past bilateral frameworks. On the diplomatic front, India can now oppose any third-party interference or attempts to internationalize the Kashmir issue with greater conviction and authority.

How Could This Affect the Future?

With the suspension of the Shimla Agreement, India may tighten its policy framework concerning Pakistan-Occupied Kashmir (PoK). New development projects could be initiated to foster stronger direct ties with residents of PoK, integrating the region more closely with India. At the diplomatic level, India is now positioned to completely reject any third-party involvement in Kashmir discussions, reinforcing its stance that the issue is purely internal. This move could also pave the way for a firmer territorial policy along border areas and accelerate efforts to diplomatically isolate Pakistan over its claims and actions related to Kashmir.

Sacred thread row: HC notice to State Govt

The Karnataka High Court issued notice to the State Government regarding a public interest litigation challenging the Karnataka Examination Authority's decision to prohibit students wearing "sacred thread" from participating in the Common Entrance Examination (CET) 2025, deeming it unconstitutional.

The litigation addresses instances where students were reportedly instructed to remove their sacred thread before entering CET examination halls during the tests conducted from 17.04.2025 to 19.04.2025 for undergraduate course admissions. A division bench comprising Chief Justice NV Anjaria and Justice KV Aravind noted in their order, "If it turns out to be correct, the allegations in this PIL are prone to assume serious dimensions about the violation of cultural cum religious rights of the examinee students."

The PIL, filed by Akhila Karnataka Brahmana Maha Sabha, seeks directions to prevent discrimination against students wearing sacred threads and requests the establishment of specific guidelines for examination conduct and frisking procedures at KEA centres. The petition requests interim relief for affected students through a re-examination for those denied entry due to wearing sacred threads. Senior Advocate Sriranga S, representing the petitioner, stated during the hearing that students faced mistreatment at various examination centres and were compelled to remove their sacred threads, which are worn following ceremonial practices.

The incidents reportedly occurred across multiple centres, particularly in Bidar, Shivamogga and Dharwad districts. The counsel stated, "It is an admitted fact that it has happened and there are news reports also about it happening. There are complainants coming from across the state, some students were told to remove and they were cut and thrown. Officials manning the examination centers have insisted that it should not be worn." Additional Government Pleader Niloufer Akbar informed that the government had offered seats to affected students without examinations, stating, "It is painful for the government also, it was not done intentionally." **-BMB**

BM Finance Fundas

Consumer Connect Initiative

EPFO updates Form 13 to ease account transfer process, to show taxable PF

In a significant move aimed at enhancing EPF member convenience and reducing procedural delays, the Employees' Provident Fund Organisation (EPFO) has introduced a revamped version of Form 13, simplifying the PF account transfer process when employees change jobs. Additionally, EPFO has rolled out a new facility enabling employers to generate Universal Account Numbers (UAN) in bulk even without Aadhaar seeding, further bolstering service efficiency.

The changes in the EPF website are also expected to improve validation processes for auto-settlement of eligible EPF claims, marking a significant step toward a more responsive and efficient EPFO.

Taxable and non-taxable EPF interest

The revamped Form 13 functionality on the EPF website also includes a key enhancement—clear bifurcation of taxable and non-taxable components of PF accumulations. This feature will help ensure accurate Tax Deducted at Source (TDS) calculations on taxable PF interest, thus streamlining the tax compliance process for both EPFO and its members.

Impact on EPF members and fund transfers

The simplified EPF account transfer process is expected to benefit over 1.25 crore EPFO members. With this streamlined mechanism in place, EPFO anticipates handling seamless EPF account transfers of nearly Rs 90,000 crore in PF funds every year, significantly reducing delays and member grievances.

The EPFO in this regard has issued a circular in this regard. However, the process was not functional on the EPFO's Member Sewa website. With the launch of revamped Form 13, this functionality is now live on the EPF website.

Bulk UAN generation without Aadhaar for special cases

EPFO has introduced a facility that allows bulk generation of UANs without Aadhaar linkage in specific scenarios. This move is most relevant for:

- Members associated with Exempted PF Trusts that have recently surrendered or had their exemptions cancelled.
- Situations involving recovery or quasi-judicial proceedings where past accumulations are being remitted to EPFO.
- Employers can now generate UANs using existing Member IDs and other available data, without Aadhaar, ensuring prompt credit of past contributions to the appropriate accounts.

Security measures

To protect members' interests, all UANs generated without Aadhaar will initially remain frozen. These accounts will be activated only after successful Aadhaar seeding. This risk mitigation strategy ensures both operational efficiency and security of PF accumulations.

-Sneha Kulkarni, ET Online

Particpants at the TCS World 10K Bengaluru 2025 event on Sunday; women bikers wearing traditional turban, 'Peta', take part in the event

PICS: KAUSHIK JN

IPL 2025: Arun Jaitley Stadium turns Red as RCB finds second home

The Arun Jaitley Stadium almost felt like the home ground of Royal Challengers Bengaluru (RCB), as a sea of red jerseys filled nearly half the stands, passionately supporting their local hero, Virat Kohli.

According to official records, as many as 35,000 spectators attended the thrilling encounter between Delhi Capitals and Royal Challengers Bengaluru on Sunday.

Speaking to IANS, a Virat Kohli fan said, "We are here to support RCB, and that too because of Kohli. We want him to score a hundred today — it would be a pure delight to watch him in action."

Another fan echoed the sentiment, saying, "Delhi is our team, but Kohli is in our hearts. We wish for Capitals to win, but we also want Virat to score big here."

During the fielding, even a couple of misfields from Virat Kohli received a loud cheer from the fans.

Virat last played a competitive match at this venue during the Ranji Trophy, when the BCCI had mandated all star players to represent their state teams.

Even then, a large crowd had turned up to witness the stylish batter in action.

Coming back to Sunday's match, Royal Challengers Bengaluru won the toss and elected to bowl first creating the opportunity for the fans to witness the chase master in full flow.

Bhuvneshwar Kumar headlined a strong bowling performance from Royal Challengers Bengaluru by picking 3-33 as they restricted Delhi Capitals (DC) to 162/8 .

Bhuvneshwar leaked 25 runs in his first two overs, but used his slower balls well to pick three wickets while conceding eight runs in his final two overs. He was also supported by Josh Hazlewood, the new leading wicket-taker of the season, picking 2-36 and Yash Dayal taking a scalp. **-Agencies**

Dangers of improper burial site management

CONTINUED FROM PAGE 1

deep burial where there is no access to CBWTF. Moreover, deep burial is permitted only in rural or remote areas where there is no access to CBWTF and carried out with prior approval from the prescribed authority, i.e., State Pollution Control Board, following standards prescribed under BMWM Rules.

Experts say that if deep burial sites are not properly managed, they may lead to environmental pollution, including contamination of groundwater.

"These sites should be leak-proof and should not be dug in areas with shallow aquifers. They should also be away from residential areas and located to ensure that no contamination occurs to surface water or groundwater. If not made watertight, it will contaminate groundwater sources. This system of disposing of biomedical waste is risky," said a waste management expert.

As per BMW rules too, the location of the deep burial site shall be authorised by the prescribed authority. Moreover, the groundwater table level should be a minimum of six metre below the lower level of the deep burial pit. Experts say that the Karnataka State Pollution Control Board should ensure that treatment facilities are established even in remote areas, so deep burials of biomedical waste can be avoided.

In Karnataka, 28 districts are currently covered by CBWTF. Belagavi, Haveri, and Kodagu still lack this facility.

The CPCB report has also underlined that Karnataka currently has 54,594 healthcare facilities, and while 48,320 are authorised, 6,274 facilities are operating without authorisation. Moreover, 7,910 violations of BMWM Rules, 2016 were recorded in Karnataka in 2024, and notices were issued to 6,697 defaulting healthcare facilities.

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I Jothi Raghavan Sai Venkata Krishnan S/O, Jothi Raghavan R/o B1-1002, L&t South City, Mico Layout, Arekere, Bangalore 560076 have changed my name to Sai Venkatakrishnan

I Meera.V W/o Chandramouli .S R/o #123/5, 4Th Cross, Lalbagh Road (Off K.H.Road,) Bengaluru -- 560 027 Have changed my Name To Meera Chandramouli for all purpose vide Affidavit dt 06.04.2000

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Commercial, residential areas lack parking spots

CONTINUED FROM PAGE 1

beneath blushing canopies. "The pink flowers aren't causing rule-breaking," Shivaprakash, DCP (South traffic) said with a smile. "It's people's admiration and their desire to capture the beauty that leads to quick, impulsive stops and parking mistakes. However, if they want to click pictures, they can park their vehicle on the side without disturbing other commuters and enjoy the season," he advised.

Meanwhile a traffic official said that wrong parking in Bengaluru is largely the result of multiple interconnected issues. "The main reasons include the lack of adequate parking infrastructure, widespread unauthorised parking in public spaces, and insufficient enforcement of parking regulations," the official explained.

Traffic police officials further pointed out that in many busy areas, the scarcity of proper parking facilities forces motorists to park illegally. "In commercial and residential zones especially, the shortage of legal parking spaces drives people to leave their vehicles wherever possible," he said, citing observations from a recent traffic study.

Unauthorised use of vacant plots and public spaces for parking has worsened the problem. "When people start occupying empty lands or sidewalks meant for pedestrians, it reduces the availability of authorised parking, creating further chaos," the traffic police official noted.

Despite the spike in numbers, the mood remains more forgiving. Social media is flooded with the evidence of Bengaluru's pink awakening. Instagram, X, and Facebook are brimming with pictures hashtagged #PinkBangalore.

Making of Garden City

Botanists trace the origins of these trees, scientifically known as Tabebuia, to Central and South America. British horticulturists introduced them to India in the 19th century, selecting them for their resilience against dry, dusty conditions, traits well-suited to Bengaluru's environment. After Independence, their popularity grew, as city councils and forest officials, appreciating both their visual appeal and environmental value, planted them widely.

In an X post, An Indian Forest Service officer Ramesh Pandey credits forester SG Neginhal for expanding their presence across Bengaluru's parks and streets. "Thanks to his efforts, the city now experiences its own version of a cherry blossom season, akin to the famed displays in Japan."

A social media user Ankit, explained in a recent post, "A mind-blowing combination of a Sultan, a German horticulturist & British created history. Lalbagh Botanical Garden was sown in the 1760s by Hyder Ali, nurtured by Tipu Sultan, and later cultivated by the British into a living laboratory of exotic plants. It became the mother nursery—the place where Bangalore's flowering destiny took root.

Along came Gustav Krumbiegel—a German horticulturist came up with a wild idea: Why not colour-code the city with flowering trees? Each neighborhood got trees that bloomed in different shades and seasons, the pink tabebuia in Malleshwaram , the lavender Jacarandas to fiery Spathodeas. All trace back to the propagation program an ecological vision that gave Bangalore Garden city the title."

HEALTH TIP: Chronic sleep deprivation is linked to an increased risk of hypertension, arrhythmias, and cardiovascular diseases

A heart rate below 50 or above 120 beats per minute might warrant immediate evaluation

BangaloreMirror 9
Monday, April 28, 2025
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Not-so-frequently asked questions

Weirdest things parents looked up on the net last year

Let's be honest, parenting doesn't come with a manual, but the good news is, it does come with Google. From checking on the breathing patterns of their kids to the colour of the normal poop, anything and everything we parents' type into that search bar at 2 am in the night. Last year saw a treasure trove of parenting confessions via Google searches, and we couldn't help but dig into a few of the funniest. No judgement—we've all been there.

● "When will my kids start sleeping in?"

■ Spoiler alert: not anytime soon. Children have a mysterious internal clock that says 3:40am is the time to begin their day. Sleeping in? That's a luxury reserved for grandparents and maybe their dads.

● "Is silence always a bad sign?"

■ Short answer: yes. Long answer: it means they're either asleep in an unexpected place or doing something they definitely shouldn't be doing. Investigate immediately.

● "Do babies hiccup?"

■ Yes, and it's oddly adorable—until it happens 24 times in an hour and you're Googling remedies with one hand and holding a bouncing baby with the other trying to get them fresh air to breathe.

> **A pick from the lot: From checking on the breathing patterns of kids to the colour of poop, everything parents' type into that search bar at 2 am**

● "When will my child grow up?"

■ A philosophical question disguised as a desperate plea. The answer? Too fast and not fast enough—all at once. But remember, once they grow up, you will start missing the mini you.

● "Why do children lick all things around?"

■ Because they can. The floor, the window, the pet, the shoes and nothing is off limits. Apparently, the toddler tongue is a sensory tool. Science says it's normal. Your OCD might disagree.

● "Will my child remember that time I accidentally hurt them?"

■ They might not, but you will—for the rest of your life. Fortunately, kids are resilient, and guilt is just another bonus perk of parenting.

● "What's the funny noise they make?"

■ Could be a squeak, grunt, squawk, or mini roar. Totally normal baby soundtrack. Bonus: they do it loudest during serious video calls or while you're pretending to be asleep.

● "What's the normal colour and texture of baby poop?"

■ There's no such thing as normal in baby poop. It ranges from mustard yellow to alarming green. New parents become expert colour analysts overnight. Welcome to the poo club.

● "How do I cut a baby/infant's fingernails without chopping their finger off?"

■ With nerves of steel, a magnifying glass, and preferably while they're asleep. If you haven't felt terrified of trimming a fingernail the size of a sesame seed, are you even a parent?

● "How do I hide the snack?"

■ You'll find yourself whispering like you're smuggling some gold or cash, just to eat a biscuit piece in peace. Behind the fridge door, in the bathroom, inside the kitchen - all is fair in love and sneaking a snack.

● "What happens if they accidentally ate sand?"

■ Relax, A little sand doesn't harm them which will for sure end up in the next day's diaper. Still, you're not alone in this crunchy parenting moment.

● "Can I pretend my child isn't mine?"

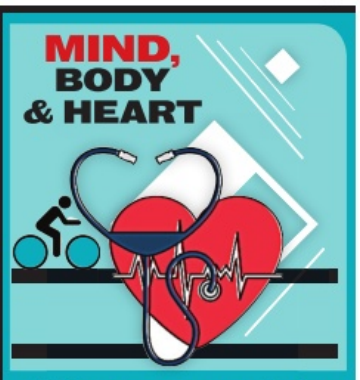
■ Usually Googled mid-tantrum in a supermarket or during an airport departure. Totally understandable. And no, it doesn't make you a bad parent, just a very real one. We've been there and done that.

● So, what did we learn?

■ That parenting is messy, hilarious, and completely unpredictable. And if you've ever turned to Google for help, you're in excellent company as they won't judge you.

Go on, type away!

–Kayal Arivalan, Femina



All you need to know about...

Morning food

Metabolism boost
Including metabolism-boosting foods in your breakfast can help improve digestion, balance energy levels, and support healthy weight management.

1. Lemon Water with Honey
Starting your day with warm water, a splash of lemon juice, and a spoonful of honey can rev up your metabolism. Lemon helps detox the liver, and honey provides a natural energy spike, preparing your body to burn calories efficiently.

2. Soaked Almonds
Soaked almonds are easier to digest and packed with protein and good fats. Eating a few on an empty stomach helps control cravings and supports muscle maintenance, which is key to a healthy metabolic rate.

3. Greek Yoghurt
This protein-rich food also contains gut-friendly probiotics, which play a role in digestion and metabolic efficiency. It curbs appetite and keeps energy levels stable throughout the morning.

4. Oatmeal
A warm bowl of oats fuels your body with fibre, which aids digestion and keeps you fuller for longer. It stabilises blood sugar and prevents mid-morning energy crashes.

5. Green Tea
Green tea is loaded with antioxidants which helps in fat burning. Sipping it in the morning can give your metabolism a gentle nudge while hydrating your system.

6. Eggs
Eggs are a powerhouse of protein, vitamins, and minerals. They support muscle repair and make you feel full, which can help you eat less throughout the day while keeping your metabolism steady.

7. Apple & Peanut Butter
This simple combo provides the ideal mix of fibre, natural sugars, and healthy fats. I

– Femina

MIRRORLIGHTS

Is it love or limerence? Fine line between infatuation and obsession

We've all been there: meeting someone, falling for them head over heels, sleeping with them on the first date, and rushing into a relationship, often without truly getting to know them. It feels like love. You find yourself daydreaming about them, imagining the wedding, and envisioning a perfect happily-ever-after. But what happens when that initial euphoria fades? Especially if the relationship ends? The aftermath can leave you spiraling. This intense, all-consuming emotional experience isn't love, it's limerence.

What Exactly Is Limerence?

Limerence is an intense infatuation that can feel a lot like love. It's obsessive thoughts, emotional dependency, and a desperate need for reciprocation. Think of it as an emotional rollercoaster that fluctuates from an intense high to despair. Any sign of them pulling back can make you hit a low, and any sign of interest gives you a high. The person you're obsessed with may not even be right for you, but you cannot stop thinking about them because it's a chemical addiction to the chase.

You're constantly stalking them on the 'gram, going through their profile a zillion times, and even reaching out to them for validation after the breakup. It's like experiencing an intense high and an exhausting struggle. The deeper your attachment, the stronger

is your fear of losing them, which gives you anxiety.

Limerence is powerful. It convinces you that the emotional rollercoaster is proof of something deep and meaningful, that the anxiety in your chest is passion rather than a red flag. It whispers that if you just play your cards right, they'll come back, choose you this time. But here's the truth: love isn't meant to be a maze of confusion and mixed signals. It doesn't leave you questioning yourself. It doesn't keep you hooked on mixed signals. What you're feeling isn't love, it's infatuation — a fast and intense attraction that doesn't go beyond the surface.

How To Deal With Limerence

The first step is to sit with your feelings and try to rationalize them. Ask yourself: Why am I having such intense reactions to someone I barely know? Take a moment to write it down. It's crucial to remember that this person is still a stranger. To gain clarity, try stepping back and viewing the situation from a distance. Focus on self-awareness, and allow yourself the space to process before jumping into any decisions.

-- Ravina Sachdev, Femina

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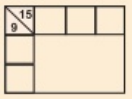
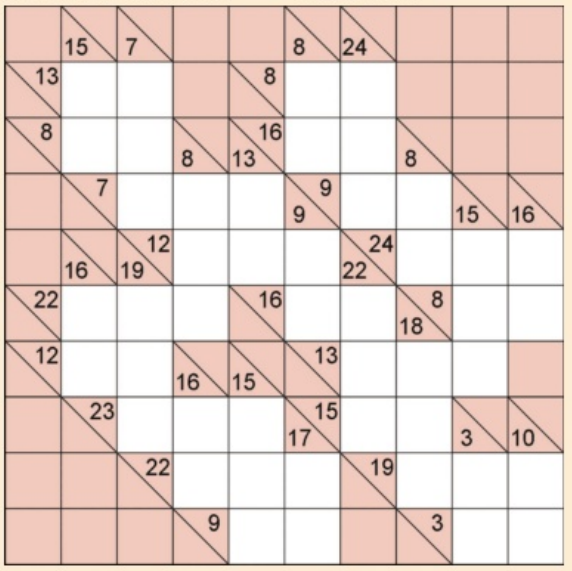
Kakuro

The numbers in the grey squares refer to the sums of the digits that you must fill into the empty spaces directly below or to the right of the grey square containing the number. For instance, in the given example, the 3 boxes horizontally next to 15 must contain 3 digits that add up to 15, whereas

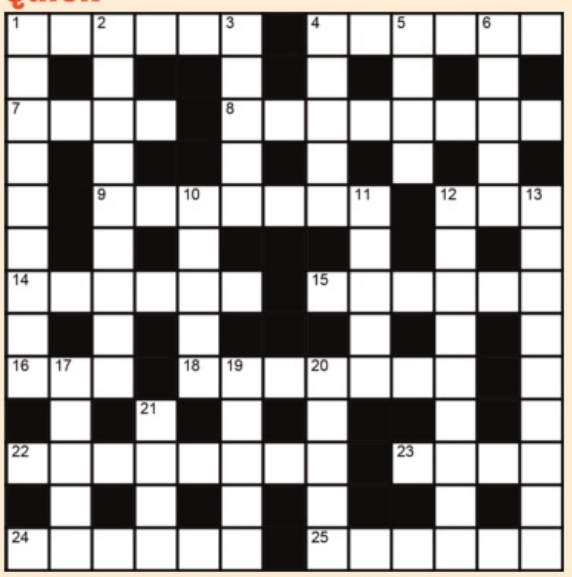


for 9, it is the 2 boxes placed vertically under it that must add up to 9. No zeros are used here, only the digits 1 through 9.

Note: A digit cannot appear more than once in any particular digit combination. For instance, in the example, we cannot have the combination of 4+7+4 for 15.



Quick



ACROSS

1 Escargots (6)
4 Cattle-biting insect? (6)
7 Pinches or bites (4)
8 Having a good time? (8)
9 Rubs or wipes out (7)
12 Fabled bird (3)
14 Shravan's musical partner? (6)
15 In agreement or concord (6)
16 Climbing vine (3)
18 Shouting (7)
22 An optical aid (8)
23 Moorage site (4)
24 Counsel (6)
25 Threadbare (6)

DOWN

1 Festival celebrated in January (9)
2 An __ _ __ : it keeps doctor away? (5,1,3)
3 Solomon's queen (5)
4 Popular action figure (2,3)
5 24 hour periods (4)
6 Very slowly (5)
10 Impetuous; intensely (5)
11 The desert in Israel (5)
12 ___ from the job: giving up the job? (9)
13 Agreed with (9)
17 Insipid, dull or flat (5)
19 Overjoy (5)
20 Defeated contestant (5)
21 Hindu god of fire (4)

Quoteuncode

This puzzle is a substitution cipher in which one letter stands for another. If you think that Q equals C, it will equal C throughout the puzzle. Single letters, short words and words using an apostrophe give you clues to locating vowels. Solution is by trial and error.

Today's CLUE: J EQUALS T

UWEWP VUZWPWDJHAOJW JYW ZWJWPAHUOJHIU IN O THZ BYI HD JHAW PHLY OUZ LODY KIIP.

Linemaro

I am single and desolate. Can you help me?

Mindchow

Any kindness that I can show to any fellow creature, let me do it now. I shall not pass this way again

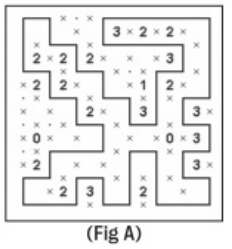
Joke of the day

One out of three hundred and twelve Americans is a bore, for instance, and a healthy male adult bore consumes each year one and a half times his own weight in other people's patience

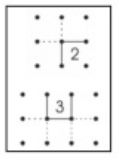
Loop

Rules

» Connect adjacent dots with vertical or horizontal lines, creating a single loop (Fig A). » Crossovers or branches are not allowed (As shown by dotted lines in Fig B). » Numbers in the puzzle indicate the number of lines that should surround it, while empty cells may be surrounded by any number of lines. » You can't draw lines around zeros. » Each puzzle has just one unique solution.



(Fig A)



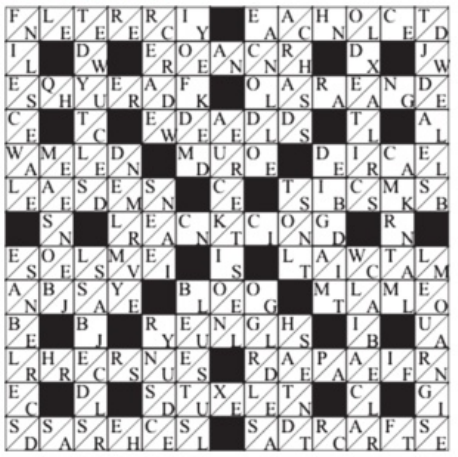
(Fig B) Not Allowed

How to begin:

Example (Fig A) – Begin with the zero next to 3. Since no lines can be drawn around zero, mark crosses around it, as shown. Now there is a cross in one space around 3. So we know the three lines of 3 can only be drawn in the remaining three spaces. Next, these lines can only be extended in one direction each. Continue, using the same logic.

Hints: Keep eliminating possibilities by marking crosses in spaces between dots where a line isn't possible, i.e., if you have already completed required lines or where a line extension may create a branch or cause a dead-end (Fig B)

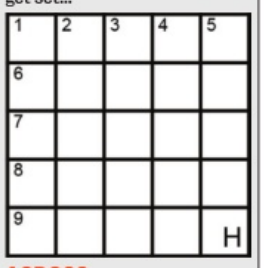
Strikeout



This crossword has no clues and the answer is there waiting for you. All you have to do is find it in each square. You have a choice of two letters, one of which you must strike out. If you choose correctly, you will be left with a grid that contains real words.

Fast five

How long do you think it will take you to unscramble the ten words shown below and fit them correctly into the grid in the order given one letter has already been entered to get you started? on your marks, get set...



ACROSS

1 Map as; 6 Hakas; 7 Hoper; 8 Asper; 9 Nth in

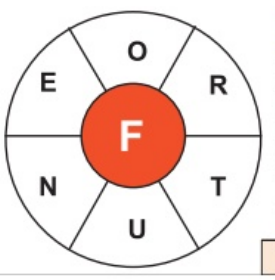
DOWN

1 Sneak; 2 Pip Pa; 3 An she; 4 Horst; 5 Harms

Mensapuzzle

Which letter replaces the question mark and completes the puzzle?

Bull's eye



How many words of four or more letters can you make from the letters shown? Every word must contain the central letter. There should be one seven-letter word. British English Dictionary is used as a reference.

09 Average; 10 Good; 12 Outstanding

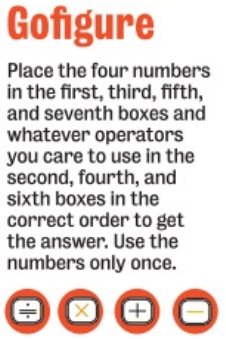
SudokuChallenge

	5	8			3			
3	2							
7		4	2		5			
	9				1			2
	7	6	9		2	5	3	
5			8				6	
			1		4	8		9
							5	6
			5			1	7	

To solve a Sudoku puzzle, every digit from one to nine must appear in each of the nine vertical columns, in each of the nine horizontal rows and in each of the nine boxes.

Gofigure

Place the four numbers in the first, third, fifth, and seventh boxes and whatever operators you care to use in the second, fourth, and sixth boxes in the correct order to get the answer. Use the numbers only once.



Easy = 1
1 2 3 3

Medium = 22
2 2 2 7

Hard = 38
2 4 6 6

Hocusfocus

Find at least six differences in details between panels.

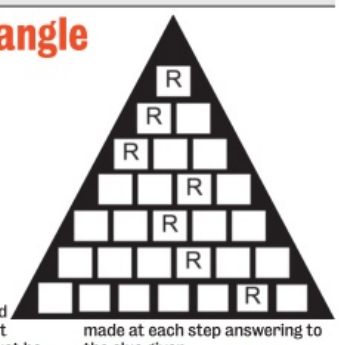
Differences: 1. Slice of bread is missing. 2. Window is different. 3. Oven door handle is not as long. 4. Table leg is missing. 5. Apron bow is smaller. 6. Tie is shorter.

Riddler

What types of desserts are represented below?
1) Lem Elk 2) Strawberry Cak 3) Full Full Full

Alpha triangle

1 18th letter
2 In reference to
3 Regret
4 Certain
5 Heals
6 Origin; seed
7 Termination

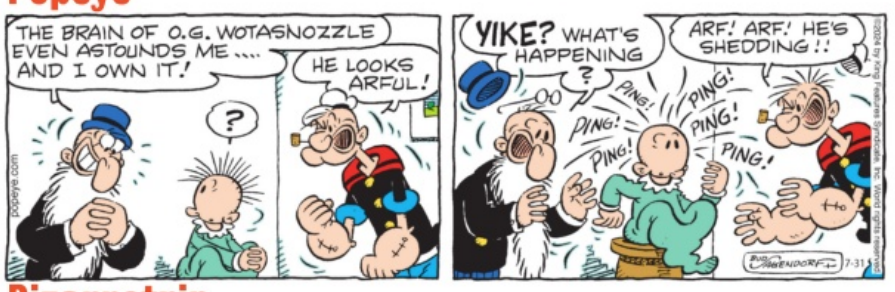


Beginning at the top move towards the bottom seven-letter word by adding a letter at each step and rearranging. A correct and different word must be made at each step answering to the clue given.

DIFFICULT TO SOLVE? FIND THESE SOLUTIONS ON THE NEXT PAGE

COMICS

Popeye



Bizarrotrip

Diamond Lil

Hart of the city

Crankshaft

Mutts

WHAT YOUR STARS SAY TODAY

Aries Mar 21 – Apr 20
Today, you're feeling enthusiastic and focused on your goals. Achieving your targets will come easily. You may go on short work-related trips that could benefit you shortly. Support from friends and colleagues will help you complete important projects.

Taurus Apr 21 – May 20
You're in a cheerful mood, and your good health boosts your confidence. You'll be guided by your conscience, avoiding shortcuts or messy tasks to maintain your reputation. Your social prestige is likely to rise.

Gemini May 21 – Jun 21
The moon's blessings bring positive energy today. You might receive recognition or rewards for your social contributions. Seniors may appreciate your work, possibly leading to a promotion. Business losses may turn into profits, improving liquidity. You may plan to invest more in your family business.

Cancer Jun 22 – July 23
You may feel disappointed today. Try to control your arrogance, as careless speech could lead to losses or conflict. Lovebirds should be cautious during discussions to avoid damaging the relationship.

Leo Jul 24 – Aug 23
A joyful day awaits. Past losses might turn into profits, and your superiors may praise your efforts. Changes at work are possible, such as a new role, promotion, or responsibilities. Hidden enemies are under control. Singles or couples may take steps toward marriage, supported by family or friends.

Virgo Aug 24 – Sep 23
You'll experience peace of mind today. Planning to invest capital in your business may increase financial liquidity. Earnings are likely to boost your financial health. Romantic moments with your spouse will enhance family harmony. Singles may find a good match, and lovebirds could decide to marry. Students benefit from positive karma.

Libra Sep 24 – Oct 22
Destiny supports you today. Health remains good, and you may plan a visit to a religious place with friends or family. A donation to a spiritual or charitable cause could be on your mind. Property deals may be completed. You might also plan work-related overseas travel.

Scorpio Oct 23 – Nov 22
You may find yourself caught in conspiracies or unnecessary controversies. Avoid such situations. Your strong will and blessings from elders can help you navigate the day safely. Be cautious in love life—avoid arguments. Also, avoid reckless driving or risky adventures.

Sagittarius Nov 23 – Dec 22
Happiness surrounds you today. You'll feel mental peace and strong focus on your goals. Romantic time with your spouse can strengthen your bond. You'll also be involved in domestic matters, contributing to a positive home atmosphere.

Capricorn Dec 23 – Jan 20
You're full of energy and may perform well at work, strengthening your relationship with seniors. New responsibilities or promotions may come your way. Good news in legal matters is possible. Your rivals and hidden enemies are under control.

Aquarius Jan 21 – Feb 19
You'll accomplish difficult tasks with ease today, boosting your confidence. Past investments may yield good returns. Avoid engaging in pointless arguments, as they may drain your energy and waste time.

Pisces Feb 20 – Mar 20
Today might feel off. You may experience dissatisfaction or a gloomy mood. Avoid hasty decisions and focus on staying patient. Take special care of your parents' well-being.

KIDZONE

Bhargavi, Bengaluru

Ananya Vastare, Bengaluru

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Please send hard copies of your artwork in A4 size only.

SOLUTIONS

SOLVE IN 1M
((15! -14!) / 14!)) - (14! / 14!)
(15 – (14! / 14!)) = 15–1 = 14

BULL'S EYE
fern, font, fore, fort, forte, FORTUNE, fount, four, fret, front, often, turf

FAST FIVE

S	P	A	S	M
A	P	E	R	S
K	A	S	H	A
E	P	H	O	R
N	I	N	T	H

QUOTE UNCODE
Never underestimate the determination of a kid who is time rich and cash poor.

STRIKE OUT

S	A	S	H	E	S	■	S	T	R	A	F	E	■	■
E	■	L	■	S	T	E	N	■	L	■	I	■	■	■
R	H	E	S	U	S	■	R	E	P	A	I	R	■	■
B	■	B	R	U	N	G	S	■	B	■	A	■	■	■
A	J	A	Y	■	B	O	O	■	T	A	M	E	■	■
S	O	L	V	E	■	I	■	T	I	C	A	L	■	■
■	N	■	R	E	N	T	I	N	G	■	R	■	■	■
L	A	D	E	N	■	C	■	T	I	C	K	S	■	■
A	M	E	N	■	D	U	E	■	D	I	A	L	■	■
C	■	C	■	W	E	A	L	D	■	L	■	L	■	■
S	Q	U	E	A	K	■	O	A	R	A	G	E	■	■
I	■	D	■	R	O	A	C	H	■	X	■	W	■	■
F	L	E	E	C	Y	■	E	C	H	O	E	D	■	■

QUICK

■	■	■	■	■	■	■	■	■	■	■	■	■	■	■
■	■	■	■	■	■	■	■	■	■	■	■	■	■	■
■	■	■	■	■	■	■	■	■	■	■	■	■	■	■
■	■	■	■	■	■	■	■	■	■	■	■	■	■	■
■	■	■	■	■	■	■	■	■	■	■	■	■	■	■
■	■	■	■	■	■	■	■	■	■	■	■	■	■	■
■	■	■	■	■	■	■	■	■	■	■	■	■	■	■
■	■	■	■	■	■	■	■	■	■	■	■	■	■	■
■	■	■	■	■	■	■	■	■	■	■	■	■	■	■
■	■	■	■	■	■	■	■	■	■	■	■	■	■	■
■	■	■	■	■	■	■	■	■	■	■	■	■	■	■

MENSA PUZZLE
C. The sum of the numerical values of pairs of letters, opposite each other in the diagram, is always 20 (the numerical value of the central letter).

RIDDLER
1) Lemon Mousse,
2) Strawberry Short Cake,
3) Trifle (Tri Full)

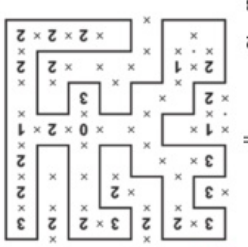
SUDOKU

9	5	8	4	6	3	2	1	7
3	2	1	7	9	8	6	4	5
7	6	4	2	1	5	3	9	8
4	9	3	6	5	1	7	8	2
8	7	6	9	4	2	5	3	1
5	1	2	8	3	7	9	6	4
6	3	5	1	7	4	8	2	9
1	8	7	3	2	9	4	5	6
2	4	9	5	8	6	1	7	3

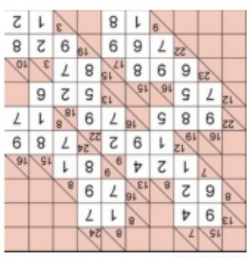
ALPHA TRIANGLE
R, Ra, Rue, Sure, Cures, Source, Closure.

GO FIGURE
Easy
2 – 3 + 3 – 1 = 1
7 + 2 + 2 × 2 = 22
Medium
6 × 6 – 2 + 4 = 38
Hard

LOOP



KAKURO



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 # Life achievement
The American Film Institute (AFI) celebrated the illustrious career of Francis Ford Coppola with the 50th AFI Life Achievement Award

Positive and negative

Throwback to when Katrina spoke about her relationship with Alia and Deepika

Ranbir Kapoor, who previously dated both Katrina Kaif and Deepika Padukone, is now married to Alia Bhatt, and the couple shares a daughter, Raha Kapoor. While all three women have moved on in their lives, reports suggest that Katrina and Deepika still have some animosity and discomfort towards each other.

Tie-ups and downs

In a 2019 interview, Katrina spoke about maintaining her friendship with Alia, despite the latter's being in a relationship with her ex, Ranbir Kapoor. She explained that she doesn't hold grudges, as it doesn't change the situation. While admitting to feeling hurt and crying at times, Katrina emphasised that she always moves forward, focusing on the belief that something better is ahead. Katrina also addressed her past tension with Deepika Padukone, which arose from Deepika's breakup with Ranbir and his rumoured affair with Katrina. Katrina said that she no longer feels discomfort or resentment towards Deepika. She emphasised that she simply reacts to her instincts and was happy to let go of any negative feelings between them.

Ranbir's exes

Before marrying Ranveer Singh, Deepika was in a relationship with Ranbir. They worked together in films before breaking up in 2009 after two years. Post their split, Ranbir dated Katrina, with whom he had a highly publicised relationship. **–ETimes**

All action, but with a message

GANGSTER ALLA PRANKSTER (KANNADA)
2.5 RATING ★★½☆☆
- **DIRECTOR** Girish Kumar B
- **ACTORS** Girish Kumar B, Viranika Shetty, Tilak Shekar, Bala Rajawadi, Girish Bijjal, Rathish Kumar B, Honnavalli Krishna, Sundar Veena, Lokendra, and Yuva Kishore Govindaraju.
- **Duration** 122 minutes
- **Certification** UA

Director Girish Kumar B plays a double role – of a hero and a director – for this movie. Though the script looks simple, the director has succeeded in narrating it with all ingredients such as action, crime, love, comedy, and sentiments. The movie is overcrowded with actors but all get equal screen space.

The movie is about a group of unemployed youths. The group is led by Arjun (Girish Kumar B) who hesitates to attend family functions due to his unemployed status. He falls in love with Shruthi (Viranika Shetty) whose parents do not want her to marry him because he is unemployed. Arjun decides to launch Webmaster, a YouTube channel. His friends and he play pranks on people and upload it on the channel. He happens to attempt to prank Satya (Tilak Shekar), a gangster, and ends up as a hostage along with his hapless friends. Satya asks Arjun to prank a local MLA. While Arjun is on the job, Satya kills the MLA. You have to watch the movie to know what happens to Arjun.

Girish Kumar deserves a pat on the back for playing the lead with ease. Though he has not acted in many movies, his performance is on par with experienced actors. Viranika Shetty looks pretty. Her performance, in a scene where she walks into a don's den as if she were entering a cafe, is funny. Tilak Shekar is convincing as a ruthless gangster with a pathetic love story. Lokendra has acted well.

The movie has some unnecessary scenes such as one where the lead actor pranks Sundar Veena that serve no purpose. Nevertheless, it is worth a watch.

–Y Maheswara Reddy